



### Thank You!

Our thanks go to the salary study committee for the many hours of work on the new employee salary schedule and to Mayor Bragg and the city council for proposing the schedule be implemented in the 2004–2005 fiscal budget. We appreciate the recognition of our hard work and the effort by the city manager, mayor and city council to make equitable adjustments to our compensation.

*"Since we cannot change reality, let us change the eyes which see reality."  
- Nikos Kazantzakis, philosopher and writer*

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## Woodwork is an escape into creativity: Aydelott

by Becky Shults, Murfreesboro Planning Department

When Murfreesboro Planning Director Joseph Aydelott thinks back to his first memories of woodworking, the ties seem to run deep.

"All my life I have been around timber," he said. "I have worked in sawmills and was exposed to woodwork in my great-grandfather's wood shop.

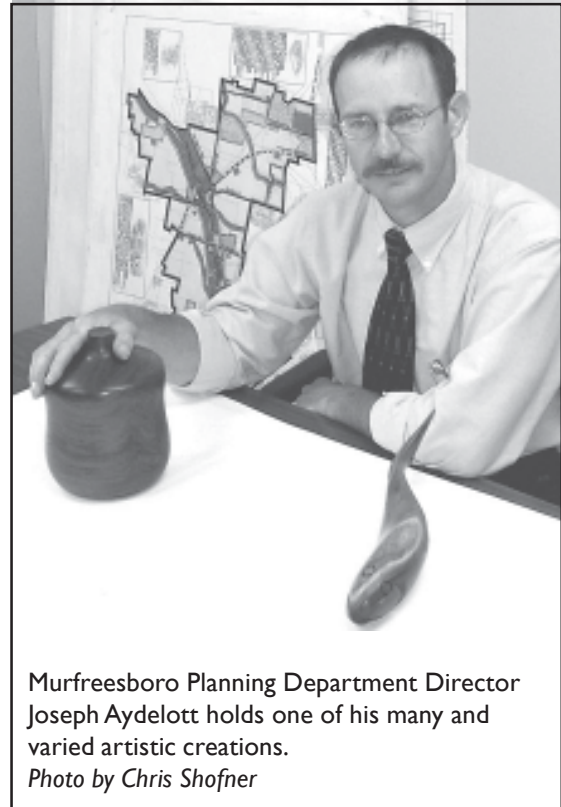
"At three or four year old," the 19-year veteran city official continued, "I can remember smelling the sawdust. What really motivated the art in me was my mother's love for arts and crafts."

As he talked about this special interest, the sense of peace and enjoyment in his woodwork and the fond memories of his mom crocheting and knitting in their home among seven children is obvious and intense.

The turning point for his woodwork was when a friend gave him a lathe, he said. Though he'd never worked with this type of machinery before, the lathe opened up a door to a sense of creativeness.

Although he has no real favorites, he said he really enjoys making bowls because there are so many unique designs – the grain and the curve of the wood are what make them so interesting. Cherry is among his favorite to work with because it has lots of quality and the wood is hard and crisp.

On the other hand, he said, cedar is not so much fun and it can be very agitating to the allergies.



Murfreesboro Planning Department Director Joseph Aydelott holds one of his many and varied artistic creations.

Photo by Chris Shofner

## Peace Officers Memorial Day observed



Murfreesboro Police Department, along with a large crowd and guests, observed Peace Officers Memorial Day recently and fallen officers across the country, including two here in Murfreesboro, were remembered.

Herbert McClanahan was killed in 1947 and Joe "Butch" Tomlinson was killed in 1999, "five years

ago, which sounds like a long time ago but is not so long ago for us," Murfreesboro Police Chief Glenn Chrisman said.

Mayor Tommy Bragg read a special proclamation and singing of the National Anthem and repeating the Pledge of Allegiance were also part of the ceremony. A memorial wreath was placed in front of the American Flag.

## July is medical, dental open enrollment

The month of July marks the beginning of open enrollment for the city's medical and dental insurance.

This enrollment period is for employees who wish to make a change in their current medical or dental insurance election, add an eligible dependent or request some other status change; such as remove a dependent due to age or divorce and it is the **only** time during the year employees will have the ability to transfer between the city's medical contracts, change to a family contract or add an eligible dependent under BCBS, United Health Care or Delta Dental, without a qualifying event.

Any employee with questions concerning the open enrollment period should contact the personnel department. Water and sewer employees should contact Mrs. Len Trujillo.



## Celebration under the Stars 2004

The July 4th Celebration under the Stars will be held on the intramural field at MTSU again this year beginning at 5 p.m. and lasting through the annual fireworks display that evening.

The event coincides with the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MTSU's campus school.

Activities will include:

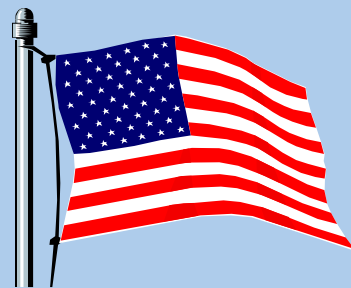
- family games and other activities beginning at 5 p.m.
- performers from the Governor's School for the performing arts from 5:30 to 7:15
- official welcome from emcee and State Rep. John Hood from 7:40 to 7:55
- a performance by the Murfreesboro Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra from 8 until 9 p.m. and
- an elaborate fireworks display to complete the night.

Participants are asked not to bring sparklers or other fireworks to the event but are encouraged to bring lawn chairs in which to enjoy the displays.

Murfreesboro Department of Parks and Recreation and The City of Murfreesboro, MTSU, Rutherford County, Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce, the *Daily News Journal* and Walmart are sponsoring the event.

The same day, the Sports\*Com pool will be open from 1 until 5 p.m. and there will be a disc-jockey, games and prizes available.

To compliment the celebration, the Murfreesboro Community Concert Band will perform at Patterson Community Center beginning at 7:30 p.m. July 1. Admission is free but seating is limited to 305.



## Fifth Citizens Fire Academy class graduates

By Laurie Alsup, Murfreesboro Fire Department

A dozen enthusiastic students, including four city employees, graduated June 1 from the 5<sup>th</sup> Murfreesboro Citizens Fire Academy (CFA) after successfully completing a rigorous course. The annual academy is sponsored by the Murfreesboro Fire Department.

Completing the eight-week training sessions were Ed DeBoer, Valorie Estes, Mary States, M'Lisa Bryant, Janie Lawrence, Vance Watley, Jadie Arney, Sharon Bolyard, Shelley Goforth, Jennifer Watley, Renee Matthews and Collins Harrelson.

States is the city's new safety officer and Janie Lawrence, Renee Matthews and Vance Watley are city emergency services telecommunicators. Harrelson is an urban environmental department employee.

Classes began on April 13 and ran 6 until 9 p.m. each night for eight consecutive Tuesday nights. They involved several departmental instructors including Deputy Fire Chief Jimmy Francis as director, Assistant Chief Ken Honeycutt, Inspectors Carl Peas and Nora Smith, Training Coordinator Billy Vinson, Captains Bob Decker, Dale Maynard, Terry Smith, Tim Swann, and Clay Walls; Drivers Lionel Holladay, Gary Hutchinson and Ray Smith and Firefighter Greg Robinson.

There is a \$35 fee to cover the costs of books and other materials used during the academy.

CFA is an excellent program that allows the citizens of Murfreesboro to better understand their fire department, Murfreesboro Fire Chief David Baxter said.

"City employees especially should consider going through the academy," Murfreesboro Public Information Officer and Grant Writer Chris Shofner said of his CFA experience. "It really does provide a unique perspective. I know I gained a healthy respect for what these dedicated employees do day in and day out."

CFA offers a small group of area residents the opportunity to view and participate in the activities and services provided by the Murfreesboro Fire Department. It is not



Back Row from Left to Right: Deputy Chief Jimmy Francis, Ed DeBoer, Valorie Estes, Mary States, M'Lisa Bryant, Janie Lawrence, Vance Watley and Chief David Baxter. Front Row from L to R: Jadie Arney, Sharon Bolyard, Shelley Goforth, Jennifer Watley, and Renee Matthews. Photo by Drulene Francis

designed to certify firefighters but is designed to teach the major aspects of fire prevention, fire extinguisher training, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automated external defibrillator training and a better understanding of firefighters' roles in the community.

Along with classroom instruction, CFA offers special activities that include a ride-along in a fire engine, wearing and using a self-contained breathing apparatus and personal protective equipment, firefighting demonstrations and participation, climbing and riding an aerial apparatus and other important aspects of the department.

All CFA activities are optional – students only participate in activities in which they feel comfortable – and most came away from this most recent class with positive comments like "The whole class was very interesting. Instructors made activities fun for everyone. All instructors were very prepared and showed they really know their stuff!" and "Already, this is the best \$35 I have ever spent!"

The next CFA class will be held in the Spring of 2005.



## Carpenter wins United Way award

By Chris Shofner, Public Information Officer

This year's United Way of Rutherford County **Best Employee Campaign Manager** award went to Murfreesboro Treasurer and Personnel Department Director Sherry Carpenter

The prestigious award was presented March 3, 2004 for the 2003 campaign, which ran from approximately October 22 to Nov. 21 of last year, according to local United Way official Wendy Peay and Carpenter.

"A public employees campaign can be extremely challenging, especially for an organization like the City of Murfreesboro," Peay said. "Sherry effectively organizes and reports 20 separate city department campaigns."

Once approval from the city manager to conduct the campaign is secured, Carpenter said, city department heads assign a someone to be the key department contact. Then a meeting is held and a letter is generated that outlines an opportunity for employees to give to what Carpenter promotes as a most noteworthy cause.

Those who participate at a nominal payroll deduction amount have their names added to a "hat" and Murfreesboro City Manager Roger Haley draws the winner's name from among them. That winner's name is added to a pool from which a name is drawn from all participating United Way agencies and companies for a



Sherry Carpenter, Murfreesboro Personnel Director and Treasurer, awaits presentation of United Way's Best Employee Campaign Manager award earlier this year.

year's lease on a Ford or Chevrolet pickup truck donated by the Don Alexander family.

Being the city's coordinator makes the October to November ritual a busy time of year, Carpenter said, because balances must be maintained and forms must be filled out correctly.

But it has its rewards, she said, because United Way is an important agency in Murfreesboro.

"We want City employees to know, while not a condition of employment, the United Way is extremely important to our community and their donations make it possible to offer programs that might not otherwise be available without their participation.

"It is very valuable to our community," she said.

## Patterson library named for long-time educator

Photo by Matt Stano

Mrs. Myrtle Glanton Lord, an employee of Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Department since its inception in 1947 and a local educator for over 40 years, was honored recently when the library at Patterson Community Center was named in her honor.

In addition to family members, several dignitaries attended the unveiling of a plaque marking the event including Murfreesboro City Council member Ron Washington, Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Commission chairman Dee Jernigan and Parks and Recreation Department Director Dennis Rainier and Deputy Director Lanny Goodwin, among others.





## North Maney Avenue area cleanup a success

By Chris Shofner, Public Information Officer

Despite the light volunteer turnout, the special community cleanup day May 8 in the North Maney Avenue area of Murfreesboro proved a success, a spokesman said, with 21.99 tons of garbage, 60 cubic yards 15 tons of brush and 52 tires removed.

The morning's effort was a collaboration among the North Maney Avenue Neighborhood Association, the City of Murfreesboro and other interested parties including Leslee Dodd Karl who represented the interests of the Great American Cleanup, an effort sponsored by Keep America Beautiful (KAB).

KAB provided printed materials and Murfreesboro Department of Parks and Recreation provided staffing, food and drinks at the end of the event and transportation throughout the targeted area which included North Academy Street on the west, to Highland on the east and McKnight, Jetton, East Lokey and Roberts on the north to East Main on the south.

The event was held from 8 until 10 a.m. May 8 and the staging area was the main gravel parking lot adjacent to Oaklands Mansion.

This year's cleanup event follows two years of similar efforts in the South Maney Avenue area around Patterson Center and plans are to expand what is becoming an annual program into even more areas of the city, officials say. One target discussed as a possibility for next year is the Highland Heights area and several blocks around

Rogers Park off Bradyville Pike.

Officials who volunteered for this year's cleanup were city council members Doug Young and Ron Washington, Mayor Tommy Bragg and his wife Jeanne, Murfreesboro Police Chief Glenn Chrisman along with Det. Chris Ashley and officers Mike Taylor, Abe Vongphakdy, Harry Haigh and Clayton Williams, several uniformed officers who patrolled the area in squad cars and on bicycles; Karl representing the Great American Cleanup, Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Department Deputy Director Lanny Goodwin, Murfreesboro Director of Solid Waste Joey Smith, Murfreesboro Public Information Officer and Grants Coordinator Chris Shofner, North Maney Avenue Neighborhood Association official Steve Baughman and his wife Shelly, St. Rose Catholic Church Young Adults class members Matthew Blomeley and Travis and Lisa Massengale and several employees of the Murfreesboro solid waste and streets departments among others.

Solid waste workers involved in the cleanup included Eddie Sanders, Bucky Preston, Jamie Jordan, Jeff Mosely, Mark Stanley, Charles Coleman, Michael Dodson, Michael Askew, Gary West, Jeremy Pendergast, Raymond Johnson, Terry Gooch, Ricky Sanders, Leonard Gibbs, Eric Robertson, Mark Murphy, Charles Braeback, Tim Reed, Ralph King, Nathan Austin, Clayton Warrick, Terry Gammons, Bruce Cameron, Gary Barrett, John Blessings, David Haslem, Kimmy Hutchins and Daniel Bauer.



### City co-sponsors North Maney cleanup

Part of the crew that showed up for the Great American Cleanup in the North Maney Avenue area was dedicated to getting rid of unwanted trash in the area. Employees from parks and recreation, the police department, solid waste and streets were on hand to join members of the city council and other city staff.

# The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993

The Personnel Department receives many inquiries regarding FMLA and how it works. FMLA entitles eligible employees to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave in a 12-month period for specified family and medical reasons.

## 1. WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

A City employee must have worked for the City a total of 12 months and have worked at least 1,250 hours over the previous 12 months. A complete review of Family and Medical Leave is covered in City of Murfreesboro Employee Handbook Section 1004.

## 2. WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES ARE COVERED UNDER FMLA?

- Birth and care of the newborn child of the employee;
- Placement with the employee of a son or daughter for adoption or foster care;
- To care for an employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent who has a serious health condition and the employee is needed to attend the family member's basic needs; both during periods of inpatient care and during periods of home care. The definition of "care" can include both physical and psychological care. An eligible employee may take leave under this provision regardless of the availability of another family member to provide the same or similar care; or
- To take medical leave when the employee is unable to work because of a serious health condition.

## 3. WHAT ARE EMPLOYEE NOTICE and SCHEDULING REQUIREMENTS?

A City employee requesting family leave is required to give 30 days' notice before the date the leave is to begin, except for bona fide emergencies, which will be accommodated as soon as practicable.

When a request for FMLA is related to a serious health condition, the employee must make a reasonable effort to schedule treatment(s) so as not to unduly disrupt the City's operations.

All requests for family leave must be in writing, setting forth the reason(s) for the family leave, the employee's intention to return to the employee's job with the City, and the anticipated period the employee will be away from the job.

## 4. WHAT HAPPENS TO MY HEALTH INSURANCE WHILE ON FMLA?

The City is required to maintain group health insurance coverage for an employee on FMLA leave whenever such insurance was provided before the leave was taken

and on the same terms as if the employee had continued to work.

If you have sufficient eligible benefit hours for salary continuation during your FMLA leave, the City will continue to deduct your regular health insurance premiums.

If your FMLA leave is unpaid, the City will deduct double health insurance premiums from each paycheck when you return to work until all premiums are recovered.

## 5. MAY I WORK AT OTHER EMPLOYMENT DURING APPROVED FAMILY LEAVE?

City policy states an employee may make a written request to the Personnel Director for permission to engage in outside employment or in otherwise incompatible activity during a period of family leave. The written request should describe the nature of the work or activity. The employee may be required to support the request with information from the healthcare provider and/or the prospective employer.

Absent such approval, employees on a family leave shall not engage in work for another employer or, if the leave is taken on account of the employee's own serious health condition, in any other activity incompatible with such serious health condition.

## 6. HOW DO I APPLY?

You may pick up an FMLA packet in your department or come by the Personnel Department. You must complete City Form 1003, *Application for Leave of Absence*, and submit U.S. Department of Labor Form WH-380, *Certification of Health Care Provider*, to the Personnel Department for approval.

For further information or questions, please contact Chris McFarlane at 484-2553.



**(Aydelott, continued from page 1)**

Studying a raw piece of wood to visualize how the faults and interesting grain patterns can be accentuated is where Aydelott's innate artistry originates. He has several pieces that illustrate the talent of an artist who creates functional and decorative wooden bowls and other fine wood pieces on a lathe, while giving each one his own style and character.

Several on the planning department staff can personally testify to the many beautiful pieces of wood art that he has uniquely created, as they are able to view in their homes. Among these items are various types of wood bowls, decanters, book holders, jewelry boxes, checker board sets, coat racks, walking canes, lamps and much more.

When asked about the jewelry boxes that display a very distinct "whale shape" feature to them, he said the idea came from a picture.

While talking about the process of making wood art, he explained that smaller items don't necessarily

mean quicker or easier. He referred to a variety of letter openers on his desk, explaining the uniqueness of layering several types of wood into one small letter opener.

"They have a novelty value," he said.

After a busy day or week, Aydelott said, he can retire to his wood shop, which he has named "Novelty Wood". Though it's rare he spends more than about four hours a week in his shop, it is very enjoyable when he can get away.

The artist said he thinks people enjoy wood because of the way it feels and looks and he really enjoys working with wood that has sentimental value.

"It means a lot to work with wood that has meant something to someone else," he said.

He reminisces about a fallen tree in his parents yard that he turned into a bowl for his Mom, saying that it was special to her.

So what is most appealing about woodworking?

"It is an escape into a realm of creativity," he said.



**Chess set still offers Robert Lewis family enjoyment**

The Robert Lewis family doesn't spend as much time on the near-lifesize chess set as they used to, according to Robert, but the cedar chess pieces produced by woodwork artist Joseph Aydelott still offer enjoyment to anyone who wants to play. From left are Megan Gannon, Barbara Lewis, Kenny Zook and Robert Lewis. At lower left is Alice, the family pet and elder stateswoman.



## From the Desk of Roger Haley

Dear Employee:

The City is now approximately 45 square miles with 80,000 residents. The City has about 35,000 households and 375 lane miles of road. In the upcoming budget, we will have about 800 full-time employees. You are to be commended for the excellent job in operating and maintaining the City's assets. Please know that I will always regard you, the employees, as the most valuable asset of the City.

However, despite our best efforts, problems are going to occur on both public and private property. Some of the items we deal with on a daily basis are potholes, blinking traffic signals, down street signs, tree limbs in the street, overgrown yards, vandalism, graffiti, etc.

I would like to take this opportunity to get each of you to help us find these problems even when it is "not within my department." Many of you are in the field every day and are driving city streets and in our neighborhoods. As you drive around, I ask that you be on the lookout for problems, making note of them and turning them in.

In order to make this simple and efficient, your department head will be getting an "Action Request Form" that can be filled out by you. If you are unclear about which department is responsible, please send it to my office and we will route it. Additionally, you will receive a list of the most common complaints or problems to help you know what to look for.

This program is an extension of the great teamwork we already have. While you are out in the field, let's help each other out. Please keep your eyes open! Together, we can

keep our city safe, clean and attractive.

I think a program like this needs a name! I'll buy lunch for the most creative name submitted by a city employee that characterizes our efforts to get everyone involved in finding problems, teamwork and constantly being on watch for problems. Please send your nomination to me by August 1.

On a different note, I'd like to remind each of you who use the Internet and e-mail to use these appropriately. They can be powerful tools, but they can be subject to abuse. You should have received notice that we have activated a more proactive monitoring program. This software blocks numerous categories of non-work related Internet sites, such as dating, games, sports and others. If the program blocks you from accessing a legitimate work-related site, please contact Bill Terry or Matt Byrnes. We have also blocked internet-based e-mail such as yahoo, MSN and hotmail. Finally, the software notifies us when a user spends 60 cumulative minutes a day on the Internet. Again, there is no problem if you need more than this time for work related reasons, but this check and balance will help prevent abuses. Based on our early experience with the software, employees have not been going over the 60-minute threshold.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer and once again, thanks for all of your hard work.

**Roger Haley**

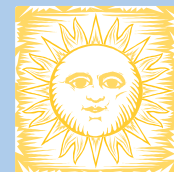
## Protecting yourself from the sun

by Mary States, Murfreesboro Safety Director

Every year about 54,000 new cases of skin cancer are reported and over 7,000 deaths from skin cancer are recorded. Here are some tips to block out the harmful UV rays:

- **Cover up** Wear tightly-woven clothing that blocks out light. If you can see your hand through a layer of cloth, the garment offers little protection.
- **Use sunscreen** A sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15 blocks 93% of UV rays.
- **Wear a hat** A wide brim hat (not a baseball cap) is ideal because it protects the neck, ears, eyes, forehead, nose and scalp.
- **Wear UV-absorbent shades** Sunglasses should block 99% to 100% of UVA and UVB radiation.
- **Limit exposure** UV rays are most intense between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Take the shadow test: If your shadow is shorter than you, the sun's rays are the day's strongest.

In other news, both classes for CPR/AED certification to be held on July 12<sup>th</sup> and July 15<sup>th</sup> are full. There will be other classes scheduled around September or October. If you would like to receive CPR/AED training please contact Patsy Smith at 849-2629 ext. 144. Don't forget to do your monthly check (check the owner's manual) on the AED(s) in your department or area.





# The Pleasures of Perennials

by Cynthia M. Holloway, City Horticulturist

One of my long-time favorite plant groups is perennials. To me, no group of plants is more versatile. I'm especially fond of perennials because for the most part they live from year to year, offering a certain permanency to the landscape and repay you richly for all the time and effort invested in planning and planting your garden. They are virtually unequalled in providing color and interest in the garden and the variations in size, habit, texture and time of bloom are almost endless. Perennials also tend to please the impatient gardener like me. Starting with established plants, you can create a reasonably mature garden within 2 years which in my book is instant gratification considering how long it takes many trees and shrubs to mature.

Perennial gardening had its heyday during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century-the classic English perennial border is legendary. However, in the last few years there has been a resurgence of interest in perennials from the home gardener and commercial landscaper. This interest has prompted plant breeders to quadruple their efforts to bring us more exciting and interesting cultivars-for example we now have repeat blooming Iris and Daylilies. These new selections bloom in the spring and again in the fall where in times past they bloomed only once.

"What is a perennial?" you may be asking. In order to explain I'll need to give you a quick horticultural lesson. Apart from trees and shrubs, plants can be divided into three basic kinds-annuals, biennials and perennials. Annuals are short-lived plants that complete their entire life cycle within one growing season. Biennials normally do not bloom until the second season, form seeds and then die. Perennials live from year to year, with varying bloom times. They may last in the landscape for a few years or for generations.

Perennials are also classed as woody (plants that produce woody above-ground stems and branches that live from year to year) or herbaceous (plants that produce comparatively soft tissues which often die back to ground level at the end of the growing season). This article is devoted specifically to the herbaceous perennial (hereafter called perennial) that persists from means of underground storage structures such as corms, tubers, crowns and fleshy roots.

Most perennials are winter hardy here in the Southeast, although there are a few so-called tender perennials that

are sometimes injured by low temperatures.

The major limiting factors in perennial adaptability in the Southeast are often heat tolerance and diseases that prevail in hot, humid climates-not the cold temperatures. In addition to climatic adaptation, perennials should be selected based on their ability to perform well and contribute to specific landscape needs. Height, spread, color, time and length of bloom, and plant habit should be given careful consideration. Some perennials are tolerant of poor drainage, others totally intolerant. Sun and shade tolerance varies. All of these factors are important in selecting and using perennials correctly.

Perennials can be planted in fall or early spring, but fall is sometimes better because it gives the plant more time to become established before the start of active growth. Good bed preparation is extremely important for perennials. Remember that you are making a long-term planting and it is much easier and much less disruptive to improve the soil and correct drainage problems before planting. It is a misconception that because perennials last from year to year they require little maintenance and care. While it is true that some survive and even thrive with little care, more require some attention to look their best. Perennials tend to require ample moisture during periods of active growth therefore, do not rely on normal rainfall; irrigate if necessary. Mulching helps conserve moisture, control weeds, plus adds a degree of winter protection.

## My Top Ten Favorite Perennials

(subject to change without notice) ☺

**Astilbe sp. (False Spirea)** Astilbe range in size from less than a foot to over 6 feet high. They produce clumps of fernlike foliage and upright or arching feathery plumes in shades of white, pink and magenta. Astilbes are long-lived, low-maintenance plants that grow best in partial shade. They prefer moist, rich soils.

**Echinacea (Purple Coneflower)** Purple coneflower is a mainstay of the summer garden and

(Perennials contd. on page 10)



## The Pleasure of Perennials, contd.

blooms for many weeks. The cone-shaped flowers resemble party hats with a brim of petals and a coppery orange crown. Flower colors range from white to dark magenta. A tough plant that requires very little care, prefers full sun but will tolerate light shade.

**Gaillardia** (*Blanket Flower*) Gaillardia grows 12 to 30 inches high and blooms from midsummer until frost even if not dead-headed and the globular seedheads are themselves attractive. It grows easily, prefers full sun, tolerates poor soils and needs good drainage. Yellow, red and orange varieties are available.

**Helleborus** (*Christmas rose*) These are not roses at all but related to buttercups. Christmas rose is valued because of its unique time of bloom: November to early spring. As the name implies, it is frequently in flower at Christmas. Growing 12-15 inches high, the flowers are white with pink shading and make good cut flowers. Hellebores grow best in shade or partial shade. A relative, Lenten rose, is also an excellent choice. It blooms mid to late spring with green to magenta flowers.

**Hemerocallis** (*Daylily*) Daylilies are among the most adaptable perennials and without doubt the most widely grown perennial in our area. Sizes range from less than 1 foot to 4 feet high with a rainbow of colors available. There are hybrids that flower in spring, in early or late summer or in fall. Some repeat bloom. Will thrive in full sun or partial shade.

**Hosta** (*Hosta or Plantain Lily*) While hosta do flower, they are grown principally for their rich luxuriant foliage. Sizes range from a few inches to several feet in height and spread. Leaf texture may be smooth, ribbed, wavy or twisted. Leaf colors include light and dark green, yellow, white and bluish green. They do best in moist, rich soil and light shade, but many older varieties are rugged adaptable plants better able to tolerate deep shade, dry soils and root competition.

**Iris** (*Tall Bearded Iris*) No other flower has such a wide range of beautiful colors and color combinations. This particular species usually grows between 2 to 4 feet in height. The bearded irises should be grown in full sun and require excellent drainage. The rhizome should be planted half in the ground and half out. Keep mulch away from this plant since bacterial soft rot can be a problem. This is one tough cookie with staying power year after year.

**Paeonia** (*Herbaceous Peony*) There is nothing quite like peonies. They form a genus shared with no other plant. Most cultivated peonies today are hybrids. That old clump in grandmother's garden is probably called a 'Memorial Day' peony with pink or red double flowers. One downfall

is their short bloom time of about one week but by choosing a mix of early, mid and late varieties, you can have peonies in bloom for about 6 weeks. Very cold hardy and need a winter chilling to perform well. Plant 'eyes' in deep, well drained rich soil. Peonies do best in full sun and should be planted in October in our area. They like to be left undisturbed for many years.

**Penstemon** (*Beard-tongue*) About 250 species of penstemon are native to North America. My favorite cultivar is Penstemon digitalis 'Huskers Red' which has soft pink flowers with almost black stems and superb shiny deep green leaves with maroon undersides. It grows to about 24" tall and offers nice contrasting foliage to the border. It blooms in late May or early June. Very easy to grow in partial shade and well drained soil. They do better if given a light mulch in winter.

**Phlox** (*Tall Garden Phlox, Border Phlox*) Garden phlox produces tall and showy flower clusters in the summer, perfect for cut flower gardens. They need rich soil in sun or light shade, are heat and drought tolerant but very intolerant of poor drainage. Many colors are available including red, salmon, lavender and white. Can be susceptible to powdery mildew but many mildew 'resistant' cultivars are available including a beautiful white one named 'David'.

## Happy Gardening!

## Miss Penner: One of Two Oakland Valedictorians

Virginia Lee Penner, daughter of Murfreesboro City Recorder James Penner and his wife Jackie, was named one of two Valedictorians at Oakland High School this past year. Winner of numerous honors in academic and sports clubs, agencies and programs, she also earned \$10,400 in Presidential, Hope and Merit scholarships. She plans to study pre-physical therapy at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, she said.



## Retirees, New Hires

Floyd Smith retired recently as an equipment operator for the Department of Streets and several new employees have joined our ranks since the last newsletter.

We welcome:

- ❖ Marja E. Atchley, Trina G. Pullman, Tommy Ray Thompson and Harold Dean Ghee — Department of Parks and Recreation
- ❖ Grady D. Bilbrey, Timothy C. Forsthoff, James M. Jones, Jr., Joseph C. Pennington, Jr., Sigmund A. Sandifer, Somsack Srilouangkhol, Michael W. Taylor and Shandrea D. Womack — Fire Department
- ❖ Michael Wilson — Urban Environmental
- ❖ Kristi Lynn Worrell and Brian J. Kemp, Building and Codes
- ❖ Terry Lee Gammon, William R. Phillips and Joseph E. Sanders, Solid Waste.

## Birth Announcements



**Mechelle (Tax Department) and Rowland**

**Stroble**, baby boy Alexander Lynn born May 17 weighing 8 pounds, 4 ounces and 19" long.

**Alvin (Fire Department) and Jennie Brandon**; baby boy Alvin Wyly Brandon, III

born May 29 weighing 7 pounds, 3 ounces and 20.75" long.

**Rodney (MWSD) and Kristy Peay**, baby boy Nathan Taylor Peay, born March 8 weighing 8 pounds, 1 ounce and 20-3/4" long.

### PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE

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**Your CityScene staff is always needing additional news items for its quarterly publications. If you have an idea, contact your departmental representative and we'll include it.**

## Low Carb Chicken Divan

(submitted by Cynthia Holloway,  
Urban Environmental Director)

- 3-4 cups cooked, cubed chicken
- 16 ounces frozen broccoli florets
- 4 ounce can sliced mushrooms, drained
- 8 ounces cheddar cheese, shredded
- 2 stalks celery, diced
- 2 tablespoons onion, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 cup chicken broth (homemade or canned)
- 1 cup heavy cream
- Salt, to taste
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1/8-1/4 teaspoon curry powder  
(or season to taste-I like a lot!)

Cook the broccoli according to package directions for 4-5 minutes; drain. In medium non-stick skillet, sauté the mushrooms, celery and onion in the butter until soft and lightly browned. Season with salt and pepper. Add chicken broth; bring to boil and reduce by half. Add the cream and boil on medium heat until thickened. Gradually whisk in the mayo until well blended. Stir in the curry powder.

In a large bowl, mix the chicken, broccoli and the sautéed vegetables in cream sauce. Mix in the cheese and stir well. Pour into a 9 x 13 glass casserole dish. Cover with foil and bake at 350° for 30 minutes. Uncover and bake another 10 minutes until bubbly and a little brown on top.

Makes 8-10 servings (8 servings - 3.5 net carbs each) (10 servings - 3 net carbs each)

This makes a lot and has almost the same flavor as the non-low carb version that I used to make. Very tasty.